

ADDITIONAL FEE:

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R E M A R K S

The Office Action issued July 14, 2005 has been received and its contents have been carefully considered.

Independent claim 53, and claims 54-57 which were dependent thereon have been canceled.

Two independent claims remain in this application, namely, claim 72 which defines a "method of producing a self-authenticating document" and claim 88 which defines "an authenticatable recording medium". Both of these independent claims have been substantially amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention.

In particular, claim 72 has been amended to recite the steps of:

"producing a self-authenticating message comprising a cryptographic combination of the digital signature [of the information content] and the essentially unique identifier [of the document stock]; and

"printing the information content and the self-authenticating message on the document stock...".

Claim 88 has been amended in a similar manner to
recite:

"information content recorded on the content recording surface [of the document stock], said information content defining a distinct identification element; and

"a self-authenticating message recorded on the content recording service [of the document stock]...", said message comprising a cryptographic combination of the unique identifier and the distinct identification element."

The present invention, as now defined in claims 72 and 88, concerns a method that allows documents printed on a computer printer to be "self-authenticated"; that is, analyzed to determine whether they are "original" documents or counterfeit copies.

This is accomplished by providing a document stock (e.g., a piece of paper) having at least one "anticounterfeit feature" (such as that found on paper currency) and having a "unique identifier" (such as a preprinted serial number).

Prior to printing information content on the document, a "distinct identifier" of this information content (such as a digital signature) is generated.

Thereafter, the distinct identifier and the unique identifier are combined cryptographically to form a self-

authenticating message. Finally, the information content, as well as the self-authenticating message, are printed on the document stock having the anticounterfeit feature and the unique identifier.

As explained in some detail in applicant's Amendment filed July 15, 2005, applicant's invention comprises the following three elements:

Element 1: Counterfeit resistant blank document stock. Each unit of the document stock has its own unique identification.

Element 2: Information content printed on the document stock. The information content on each document has its own distinct identification.

Element 3: A self-authenticating message printed on the document stock. This message is a cryptographic combination of the unique identification of Element 1 with the distinct identification of Element 2.

Neither the U.S. Patent No. 5,991,399 to Graunke et al. nor the U.S. Patent No. 5,873,604 to Phillips teach or suggest applicant's method of authenticating a document.

The patent to Graunke et al. concerns the distribution and validation of encryption keys, and really has nothing whatsoever to do with the present invention.

With Graunke et al., the information content is encrypted and stored on recording media and the system for distributing and validating the encryption key allows decryption and therefor playing of the media.

With the present invention, in contrast, the information content is not encrypted, and applicant's system does not include a method for distributing the encryption keys. In fact, with the present invention, the encryption key never leaves the centralized server.

In the Phillips patent, great care has been taken to make a document counterfeit resistant. There is no mention of anything having to do with a digital signature of the information content, or the provision of a self-authenticating message.

While document stock using the counterfeit resistant features of Phillips might be used in connection with the present invention with the addition of a unique serial number, the combination of the disclosure of Phillips and that of Graunke et al. would not result in a self-authenticating document, or a method of authenticating a document, which comprises the three elements noted above. Consequently, since applicant's independent claims 72 and

88, as now amended, recite these three elements, they are believed to distinguish patentably over this prior art.

Further, since all of the remaining claims of this application are dependent from either claim 72 or claim 88, and recite additional features in addition thereto, all the claims of this application are now believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

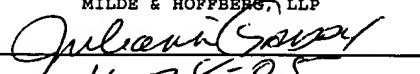
A formal Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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